

Voice of the Saints
St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & Lighthouse Preschool
Aberdeen, SD *March 2021*

Poverty: The Idea versus the Reality

In Psalm 41:1, King David will begin by writing, "Blessed is the one who considers the poor!" The authors of the Lutheran Study Bible will note how in this verse, "As king, David is to defend the powerless" (TLSB 886). You and I typically think of poverty only in economic terms, and while poverty includes a lack of money and resources, it goes much deeper. The people of Israel, for example, were powerless when they were slaves in Egypt, and this powerlessness applied not only to their economic position but also their inability to worship God the way they desired. In fact, when Moses and Aaron first approach Pharaoh about letting God's people go, they ask only that Pharaoh allow the people to go into the wilderness to hold a feast to God (Exodus 5:1).

In the case of Moses, the people of Israel, and Pharaoh, we know how the account goes. God hears the cries of powerlessness (poverty) arising from His people and frees them, so He can lead them to the promised land. Yet, what happens when they are in the wilderness? They realize that their ideas of freedom look considerably different than the reality of freedom. The reality of freedom meant trusting God's care and provision and following God's lead. It meant relying on Him instead of the routines and conveniences to which they were accustomed. The Israelites liked the idea of freedom but were much less enamored with the reality.

We too struggle with the difference between the idea of something and the reality. We like the idea of having a Savior who loves us unconditionally and who dies and rises, so we can have eternal life. We like that idea, but we are not as comfortable with the powerlessness such salvation entails. Like with the Israelites, we are called to trust God's care and provision and follow His lead, but also like the Israelites, we find ourselves grumbling because our ideas of following Jesus look different than the reality of picking up our crosses and following Him (Matthew 16:24-28).

One point the Exodus narrative illustrates is God's faithfulness in the face of our faltering trust. Reality is not determined by our ideas but by God's steadfast love, and this reality is fully disclosed in Jesus and delivered to us in Word and Sacrament. Jesus, like David in Psalm 41, will start with poverty in the Sermon on the Mount, where He will proclaim, "Blessed are the poor in spirit" (Matthew. 5:3). We are powerless, including powerless to believe in God, but through Christ, God has made our poverty the blessings of His mercy and resurrection life, and so we cling to this reality regardless of what other ideas we may have.

In Christ,

Pastor Bobby

DCE Intern Home Visits: Greetings from your DCE intern, Michael Leapley! I have really enjoyed my first two weeks at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and I have taken the first steps to get to know all of you. Help me get to know you *more* by signing up for a home visit! "What is a home visit?" you may ask. A home visit is an opportunity for me to learn about the congregation and an opportunity for you to share your ideas about the educational programs at St. Paul's...all from the comfort of your own home! You do not want to miss out on this, so let me know what time and date works for you. Sign up on the sheet in the South narthex or send me an email at michaell@stpaulsaberdeen.org.



Lent/Holy Week Worship Schedule

Lent Services: March 3-24, 2021 — 12:15 pm* & 6:15 pm

Maundy Thursday: April 1, 2021 — 12:15 pm & 6:15 pm with Holy Communion

Good Friday: April 2, 2021 — 12:15 pm & 6:15 pm

Easter Vigil: April 3, 2021 — 4:00 pm at St. John's, Groton

Easter Sunday: April 4, 2021 — 8:00 am & 10:45 am

*A blended Sunday/Lent worship service with Holy Communion



"Return to the Lord" is the theme for daily devotions for Lent and Easter. Copies of the daily devotion will be available in the South Narthex.

MARCH USHERS:

EARLY:

Jerry Ochsner Head Usher
Paul Zinter
Terry Ellingson

LATE:

Jon Gilbert, Head Usher
Ron Droog
Deb Droog

**Church Council Meeting
St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
February 15, 2021**

Attendance: Larry Jung, Nate Bode, Steve Jacobson, Deb Pederson, Tom Agnitsch, Jon Mesmer, Paul Swanson, Taylor Beutler, Dustin Klapperich, Jason Oberfoell

An opening Devotion was led by President Larry Jung.

Minutes of the January 18, 2021 Church Council Meeting were reviewed and approved with a motion by Steven Jacobson and a second by Paul Swanson.

Treasurer's Report was reviewed and nothing new to report. Nate Bode made a motion to approve the report with a second by Jason Oberfoell.

The Board minutes were reviewed and approved with a motion by Nate Bode and a second by Jon Mesmer. Pastor's Report/Church Report – Pastor Bobby mentioned that there was a sign-up sheet that will be circulated for home visits from the DCE.

Further discussion was had in reference to the Structure and Governance retreat. Preparations will continue to move forward for this.

A letter was read from President Sailer in regards to our call process. Call documents were received and in good order. They have been signed and forwarded.

Michael Guerin presented different options for a new web site design. After discussion, a motion was made by Nate Bode to have Mike provide a branded sample from churchthemes.com. This sample will be presented at next church council meeting. A second was made by Steve Jacobson.

There was further discussion about Preschool Insurance. It was determined that the budget has already been set so in order to change any line items in the budget it would have to go through the council and congregation. It was proposed to leave it as is until next year's budget so Alison can be involved and have some input.

There was a question raised about the signature card at Dacotah Bank and whether Steven Jacobson should be added. A motion to add Steve Jacobson to the signature card was made by Nate Bode with a second by Jon Mesmer.

The following memorials and gifts were reviewed. Howard Dahme: \$1260.00-Church, Building Fund, Music, Carrillon ; Marg Zacher: \$300.00; Pastor Hyle Anderson: Camp Minneboji (St Paul's) - \$210.00; District Camp - \$125.00 Carillon Bells - \$100.00; Lighthouse Preschool - \$2,030.00. A motion to approve the gifts and memorials was made by Deb Pederson with a second from Nate Bode.

Next meeting is March 15' 2021

Motion to adjourn made by Jon Mesmer, second by Nate Bode. Meeting adjourned.

LWML Meeting February 11, 2021

Present: 8 members, 2 guests

THEME: COMPASSIONATE CARING

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Betty Ochsner.

Betty welcomed all members including two new members, Jan Mammenga and Dee Roth. Roberta Adolphsen, Christian Life, led the opening devotion "Compassionate Caring" concluding with prayer.

The Pledge was said together by the group. Free will offering was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Jan Frohling and seconded by Diana Bladow to approve the February minutes. Motion carried. The treasurer's report was approved and placed on file for audit.

OLD BUSINESS: Betty encouraged the members go to the LWML website and review the details for the National Convention. Please let Betty know if interested.

CIRCLE REPORTS: Betty reviewed the function of each Circle:

Good Cheer: Send out cards and gifts to shut-ins.

Publicity: Completes the News Letter.

Alter Guild: Take care of the banners and Communion.

Please note in your St Paul's LWML folders for the members involved in these committees with any questions or if you desire to join.

No Circle meetings held due to Covid 19 restrictions.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A thank you was received from a student and his wife, David and Hannah Wenndt from Fort Wayne Seminary for the Christmas gift of money to assist with food for the students. Requests for donations were received from Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Bible Translators, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, and Anne Carlsen Center.

Janice Frohling sent 24 Valentine's Day cards to Shut-ins, 12 Birthday cards, 3 Sympathy cards and 4 Get Well cards January and February.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was discussion on a donation to Pastor Anderson's family. There was a motion made by Sally Kushman and seconded by Deb Pederson to send \$100.00 to Pastor Anderson's family.

Deb Pederson read a letter sent by Sandra Bolen requesting release of membership from St. Paul's Lutheran Church LWML which also includes her position of ordering and monitoring the Christian book/gift shop. Any member interested in this position, please contact one of the LWML officers.

There is an upcoming LWML workshop to be held September 17 & 18 at Faith Lutheran Church in Pierre, SD. Mark your calendars.

Please go to Naeir.org and review the site for discussion at the next meeting. It involves Free Will Donations.

The meeting was closed with a prayer led by Roberta.

The next meeting will be March 11 at 11:00am with Ashley Wahl serving.

Submitted: Deb Pederson, Secretary

Lighthouse Preschool News

Teaching God's children about their Creator, Savior, and Friend while preparing them for a lifetime of wonder, learning, and service.

March 2021

What is a child? Part of the Body of Christ

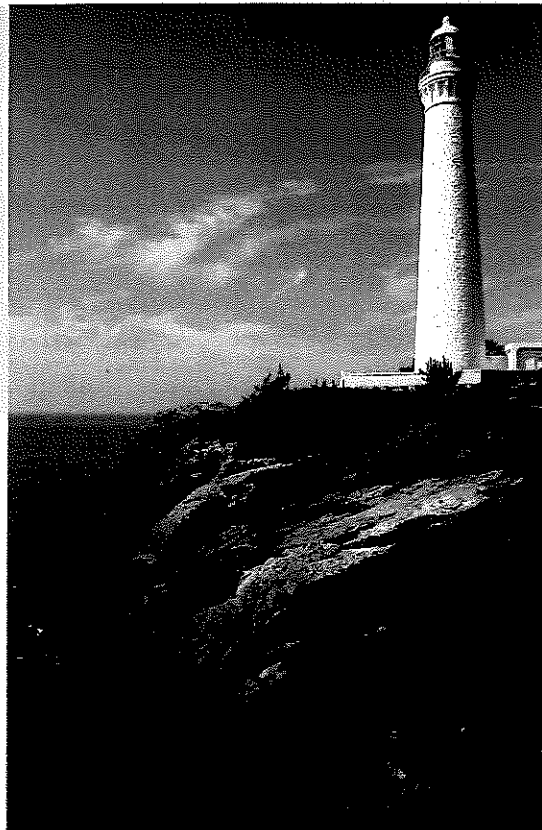
When a child is baptized into Christ Jesus, they become a part of the body of Christ. He is the head, and we are each individually members of it.

In Ephesians, we are told that we are being unified and are growing. Each of us is growing in Christian maturity to know and live as Christ would have us do. We are growing the fruits of the Spirit. (Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control.)

Children are often the ones to embody the Christian characteristics of joy, awe, and wonder. They aren't the only ones, but it is in service to the rest of the body of Christ to have those traits present. However, this age group also benefits from seeing gentleness, faithfulness, and self control modeled for them by those older than themselves.

Some of the body parts mentioned in Corinthians are to be protected because they are more vulnerable or weaker. I think children fit into this category.

Calling children weak or a burden sounds negative, but it really just means that they need things from their caregivers. Really anyone who is sick, lonely, in need, etc... is a burden, but why does the world insist this is a bad thing?! We all experience times in our life when we need to be cared for. This is not a bad thing. Caring for others is what Christians do, and while we care for those around us, be it children or adults, the Lord is teaching us patience, self sacrifice, and love.



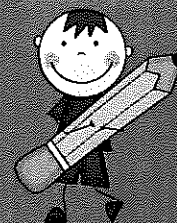
Upcoming Dates:

March 5th - No School

March 18-19 - No School (Spring break)

**March 22nd-29th
Preschool Silent Auction**

April 1-5 - Easter Break



Lighthouse Preschool News (Continued)

Hymn 864:

So now, and tell we die
Sound we Your praises high
And joyful sing:
Infants and all the throng,
Who to the Church belong,
Unite to swell the song
To Christ, our King!

REMINDERS:

Registrations are now being accepted for the 2021-2022 School year! Please call the preschool for more information or pick up a registration packet in the South entrance to the sanctuary.





The Afternoon class celebrated 100 days of school by building things out of 100 plastic cups.

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMS)
& Lighthouse Preschool
Rev. Samuel Bobby (605) 415-5578

March

Every Sunday
Divine Service @ 8am
Bible Study @ 9:15
Divine Service @ 10:45

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 Jer 29:24-32 Acts 17:22-34 6:15 Worship 7:00pm Elder Meeting	2 Jer 30 Acts 18:1-17	3 Jer 31:1-22; Acts 18:18-28 6am Men's Bible Study 7am Personnel Meeting 12:15 Lent Service 5pm Women's Bible St. 6:15 Lent Service 6:45 Confirmation	4 Jer 31:23-40 Acts 19:1-10 9am Quilting 6:30 pm Board of Ed	5 Jer 32:1-15 Acts 19:11-20	6 Jer 32:16-35 Acts 19:21-41
7 Jer 32:36-44 Acts 20:1-16 5-7:00pm Circuit Youth @ St. Paul's	8 Jer 33:1-13 Acts 20:17-38 6:15 Worship	9 Jer 33:14-26 Acts 21:1-16	10 Jer 34; Acts 21:17-26 6am Men's Bible Study 12:15 Lent Service 5pm Women's Bible St. 6:15 Lent Service 6:45 Confirmation	11 Jer 35 Acts 21:27-36 9am Quilting 11am LWML Meeting	12 Jer 36 Acts 21:37-22:5	13 Jer 37:1-10 Acts 22:6-21
Coin Banks						
14 Jer 37:11-38:6 Acts 22:22-29 1pm Elder Bible St.	15 Jer 38:7-28 Acts 22:30-23:11 6:15 Worship 7:00 Church Council	16 Jer 39:1-10 Acts 23:12-22	17 Jer 39:11-18; Acts 23:23-35 6am Men's Bible Study 12:15 Lent Service 5pm Women's Bible St. 6:15 Lent Service 6:45 Confirmation	18 Jer 40 Acts 24:1-27 9am Quilting	19 Jer 41 Acts 25:1-12	20 Jer 42 Acts 25:13-27
						
21 Jer 43 Acts 26:1-11	22 Jer 44:1-19 Acts 26:12-32 6:15 Worship	23 Jer 44:20-30 Acts 27:1-12	24 Jer 45; Acts 27:13-38 6am Men's Bible Study 12:15 Lent Service 5pm Women's Bible St. 6:15 Lent Service 6:45 Confirmation	25 Jer 46 Acts 27:39-44 9am Quilting	26 Jer 47 Acts 28:1-10	27 Jer 48:1-20 Acts 28:11-16
28 Jer 48:21-47 Acts 28:17-31	29 Jer 49:1-6 Eph 1:1-14 6:15 Worship	30 Jer 49:7-22 Eph 1:15-2:10	31 Jer 49:23-33; Eph 2:11-22 6am Men's Bible Study 12:15 Worship 5pm Women's Bible St. 6:30 Confirmation	Holy Week: April 1: Maundy Thursday 12:15 & 6:15 pm April 2: Good Friday 12:15 & 6:15 pm April 3: Easter Vigil 4:00 pm - Groton April 4: Easter Sunday 8:00 & 10:45 am		
 Food - The Journey						